



Frederick County Commission For Women

401 Sagner Avenue

Frederick, MD 21701

(301) 600-1066

CFW@FrederickCountyMD.gov

www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/fccfw

www.Facebook.com/fccfw



Frederick County Commission for Women: Public Meeting

Meeting Minutes, November 1, 2022

7:00pm

<https://officeforchildrenandfamilies.my.webex.com/officeforchildrenandfamilies.my/j.php?MTID=m619e0a18c5d8dccc287e63d8f5af3fca>

Meeting number: 2634 561 8120

Password: Vvurb5XRn33

COMMISSIONERS

Chelsea Kadish

President

Kaitlin Moore

Vice President

Cindy Shubin

Recorder

Kate O'Leary

Treasurer

Maura Page

Past President

Melissa Atherholt

Edwina Benites-LM

Lakshmi Darbha

Valerie Dougherty

Lois Jarman

Shauna Mulcahy

Terri Schumann

Marguerite Vacca-Kaye

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I. Meeting called to Order President Chelsea Kadish called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m., a quorum was present.

II. Roll call of Commissioners

Commissioners Present: Chelsea Kadish, Kaitlin Moore, Cindy Shubin, Kate O'Leary, Maura Page, Melissa Atherholt, Eddie Benites-LM, Lakshmi Darbha, Valerie Dougherty, Shauna Mulcahy

Commissioners Absent: Lois Jarman, Terri Schumann, Marguerite Vacca-Kaye

III. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting Kaitlin moved to approve the October meeting minutes, Shauna seconded, motion passed unanimously

IV. Introduction of Guest and Presentation – Community Foundation's President Betsy Day, provided a summary of the Community Foundation's most recent updated Community Needs Assessment. In 2018, the three most pressing areas were (1) supporting families with children and especially those that fit within ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed), (2) preparing for an aging population, and (3) responding to substance use disorder (and specifically, in prevention and education). This past spring, they hired the consulting firm to update the needs assessment, and the same three issues continue to predominate. Within those areas, three issues cut across all three of the primary priorities identified: affordable housing, mental health, and disparities in service delivery (e.g., if you lived in an area that didn't have ready access to broadband, you had a notable disadvantage as far as accessing online services during COVID). As far as issues impacting women, she noted that there are more female head of households in the ALICE category than male head of households, and more elderly women than men because women live longer on average.

Monique Hankins, a senior at Hood College, also joined this evening's meeting to learn more about the FCCFW.

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V. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee – President, Chelsea

- The Commission has received a \$3000 budget allocation through Citizen Services, which is similar to our recent pre-COVID years. We can accept that budget and provide high-level description of the purpose of the funding, or we can appeal to ask for a larger allocation with a detailed justification for further funding. The Executive Committee's conclusion is that we do not plan to appeal, because the \$3000 funding is similar to our funding in pre-COVID years, some county commissions do not get funding, and funding for each year stands alone so that we can not carry forward unused funding for a future planned project that doesn't take place this fiscal year. Cindy moved to accept the \$3000 citizen services allocation and not file an appeal for additional funding for this fiscal year, and Melissa seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- Treasurer's Report – Based on the June 30th amount transferred to the County and our \$405 expenses fiscal year to date, we currently have approximately \$27K in our fund balance.
- Our new Email Address – CFWFrederick@gmail.com.
- Our new Google Drive is up and running for sharing and saving our documents such as committee reports, and all commissioners should now have access to the drive.
- Upcoming Meetings - December and March will be in-person meetings this fiscal year, and the remaining meetings will be held virtually via WebEx

B. Outreach – Chair, Lakshmi

- Presenting nominees for Maryland Hall of Fame. The Outreach committee recommends that we nominate current County Executive Jan Gardner for the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame Award, as well as Olivia Yeatman from our SheLeads program for the Maryland Young Women Leaders Award. Olivia is a senior at Middletown HS, and is the current leader of SheLeads. Lakshmi nominated that we nominate Jan Gardner for the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame Award, Cindy seconded, motion passed unanimously. Lakshmi nominated Olivia Yeatman for the Maryland Young Leaders Award, Cindy seconded. Chelsea noted that the commission would provide a letter recommendation, but that the nominee would need to write an essay to accept the nomination. Maura indicated that no one has spoken yet to the nominee. Original motion failed, with two abstentions. Chelsea made a motion that the FCCWW would write a letter of recommendation and nominate Olivia Yeatman for the Maryland Young Leader Award so long as she is willing to be nominated including writing the 300 word essay that addresses one of their prompts. Motion passed with one abstention.

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- Nominations due by November 4th
- Lakshmi noted that she has asked Vivien Laxdon to write the recommendation letter, who has worked with Jan for many years. If she is unable to write the letter, Lakshmi will write it.
- Val will write the recommendation letter for Olivia on behalf of FCCFW assuming Olivia would like to move forward.
- Debrief on Asian American Center Health Fair – held Saturday 10/15. The event went well. We gave away health access information identified as a priority on Type 2 Diabetes, along with brain stress balls and FCCFW pens. Voter Outreach was also present at the FCCFW table and registered a new voter.
- Debrief on Heartly House Walk a Mile in Her Shoes – held Sunday 10/23. The event went well, and we made several contacts for future

C. Voter Outreach and Education –

- Committee Report – None. Chelsea noted that early voting is taking place now, with four locations around the county from 7am to 8pm through this Thursday 11/3. And polls will be open on Election Day from 7am to 8pm.

D. Raving About Women Annual Awards –

- Reminder: the annual RAW Awards will be March 9, 2023 6-9pm at The Arc at Market Street.
- Shauna and Melissa are working on securing the DJ for the event.
- For purposes of soliciting sponsorships, Chelsea noted that any sponsorships secured for RAW must be spent in the current fiscal year under the Citizen Services guidelines.
- Shauna mentioned that the committee would like to keep the ticket price at \$25 per person because we had better turnout at that price point.
- Shauna provided an overview of the three awards that will be presented, and noted that prior recipients are listed on our government website:
 - 1) Organization of the Year
 - 2) Women of the Year
 - 3) Up and Coming Women of the Year
 - Plan is to have a call for nominations shortly.
 - Reminder: Committee's current plan is for the Commission to vote on the award recipients at our January meeting.

E. Recruitment –

- Vacancies – The Commission currently has one vacancy. Melissa indicated that we have no open applications at this juncture. She met Sasha Jacoby at a SheLeads event, and invited her to our meetings to get to know what we do.

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Lakshmi mentioned that she met a woman at the Heartly House Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event who is interested in applying and will follow up.

- Gabrielle Wachter - Eddie indicated that the next available date the County Council date to talk about and vote on her appointment is November 15th, if they can get her on that evening's agenda, and there are meetings on the 22nd and the 29th before the changeover to the next County Council.

F. **SheLeads –**

- Updates on future meetings – at their first meeting on October 22nd, they decided that they'll be holding meetings twice a month – one virtual, and one in person at the career center at Hood College.
- They still have open space for students to join SheLeads if anyone knows of a student who would like to get involved. There's a link to move information on our Facebook page.

G. **Legislative Committee -**

- Upcoming Special Events:
 - Tuesday, November 8: Election Day
 - Saturday, November 12 at 9:00am: MLAW conference
 - Thursday, November 17 at 5:00 pm: The Maryland Commission for Women
 - Monday, December 5 at 10:00 am: County Council and County Executive Swearing in Ceremony
- Frederick County Legislative Priorities:
 - 2023 County Budget: On October 18th, the Frederick County Council voted to support the County Executive's legislative package for the 2023 Maryland General Assembly. This package included four provisions, including a provision to increase the marriage license fee to support domestic violence survivors that we supported.
 - Background: In September, the Frederick County Commission for Women sent letters to the Frederick County Council and the County Executive requesting support for legislation to protect women's privacy and reproductive rights; and, support for a bill to increase marriage fees in Frederick County to support domestic violence services. In October, the Frederick County Council approved its legislative package for the 2023 General Assembly, which included one of these legislative proposals – the marriage fee bill supported by the Commission.

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- 2024 County Budget: Departments are currently in discussions with the County Executive regarding the FY '24 budget. The County Executive will receive requests from the public regarding budget levels next month.

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- MLAW

- The Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) Fall Conference will be on November 12th.
 - Update on attendees – Chelsea explained that MLAW won't provide us with the list of attendees. Accordingly, we can't target the elected officials who will be attending and will need to issue a broad invitation, and also won't know who will be elected until three days before MLAW at most. If we end up with a larger attendee list than anticipated, we have provisions for emergency voting should we need a larger budget. However, there haven't been a lot of Frederick attendees historically. Eddie suggested that Chelsea send the invite since she's the President of FCCFW. Eddie to put together a suggested invite list for Chelsea and the Legislative Committee.
 - Registrations and sponsorship – Chelsea followed up with Kelly today, and she'll be registering attendees and our sponsorship tomorrow. She has the names and will register us, and Chelsea will get her our email addresses. The people who will be registered to attend are Terry, Kaitlin, Cindy, Eddie, Lakshmi and Chelsea. And she asked Kelly to register an additional person so we could invite a student from SheLeads.

- Long-term Storage

- The committee's reports and correspondence from December 2021 forward have been moved to the newly created GoogleShare Drive.

- Abortion and Reproductive Freedom Developments – Eddie referred Commissioners to the update included in the two most recent Legislative Committee Reports.

VI. Commission Business - Old Business

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- Status of Bylaws revisions – Val provided a redlined version of the Bylaws, with minor updates to dates and grammar, technical red lines incorporated from Jan Gardner's revisions, and several revisions that result directly from the changeover in our financial operations to Citizen Services.
 - Chelsea revised the recommended redlines to reflect discussion on the Commission's annual appropriation within the Citizen Services budget and the Commission's likely expenditures along with the related potential for an appeal of the that annual appropriation.
 - Chelsea noted that the Recorder would now access records through our digital file system in our google drive, which is analogous to when the Recorder would access records such as prior meeting minutes or agendas through a hard copy file cabinet.
 - Chelsea will send updated Bylaws dated today, please be prepared to vote on the bylaws at our December meeting.

VII. Commission Business - New Business –

- Michael Hughes, Frederick County's Chief Inclusion Officer, will be a guest speaker at our December 13th meeting.
- Reminder: Eddie previously suggested having someone from our delegation speak to us in January about their legislative priorities, to be discussed post-election at our December meeting.

VIII. Commissioner and Guest Announcements

- **Early voting** at four (4) locations in Frederick County runs from 10/27 through this Thursday 11/3, 7am to 8pm.
- **For vote by mail ballots**, there are also eight (8) BoE drop box locations around the county.
- **Other –**
 - Chelsea noted that Lois will be in a production of A Christmas Carol, and rehearsals conflict with our November and December meetings. The production will take place at the ACT Black Box theater in Hagerstown on several dates from December 9th through the 23rd. <https://www.actforall.org/black-box-events>
 - Eddie has been appointed to the Veterans Advisory Committee.
 - Brunswick's annual Veterans Parade will take place at 2pm this coming Sunday 11/6.
 - Maryland STEM Festival will be held this Saturday 11/5 in Frederick at Frederick High School and Baker Park

IX. Adjournment Cindy motioned to close the meeting, Melissa seconded, motion passed unanimously.

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